

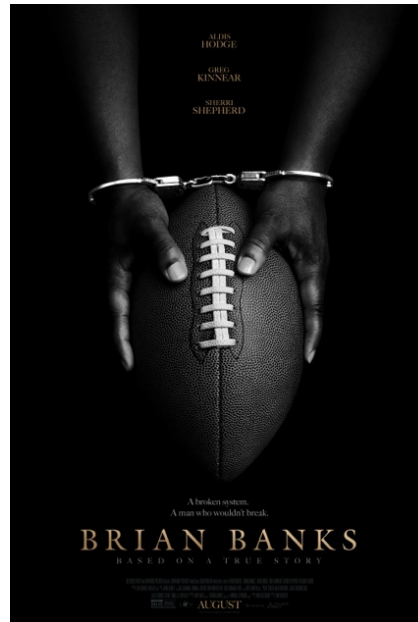
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Present

BRIAN BANKS



Directed by Tom Shadyac
99 Minutes / USA / 2019 / Rated PG-13

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BRIAN BANKS

SHORT SYNOPSIS

The inspirational true story of Brian Banks (Aldis Hodge), an All-American high school football star with a full scholarship to USC who finds his life upended when he is wrongly convicted of a crime he didn't commit. Despite a lack of evidence, Banks is railroaded through a broken justice system and sentenced to a decade of prison and probation. Years later, with the support of Justin Brooks (Greg Kinnear) and the California Innocence Project, Banks fights to reclaim his life and fulfill his dreams of playing in the NFL.

LONG SYNOPSIS

After spending five years in prison for a crime he didn't commit, 25-year-old Brian Banks (Aldis Hodge) is elated to be back on the football field as a linebacker at Long Beach City College playing the game he loves. But that feeling is shattered when he learns from his probation officer that he must wear an electronic ankle monitor and is prohibited from setting foot on the college campus.

Falsely accused of rape as a 16-year old, Brian lost out on a USC scholarship and the possibility of pursuing an NFL career. Now he's fighting to regain the life he dreamed of despite his age and his criminal record. While his mother Leomia (Sherri Shepherd) does her best to lift his spirits, the inability to play the game he truly loves, coupled with the constant rejection he receives when applying for jobs, takes an emotional toll on him.

After seeing a TV news story about lawyer Justin Brooks (Greg Kinnear), co-founder of the California Innocence Project (CIP), Brian writes to him with a passionate plea for help. Brooks knows the chances of exoneration are virtually non-existent, but after meeting with Brian and hearing his story, he eventually agrees to take a closer look at the case.

During an interview with the CIP lawyers, Brian describes the transformative experience he had while locked in solitary confinement. What saved him from that nightmare was a class he took in juvenile hall with Jerome Johnson (Morgan Freeman), whose wise words helped Brian focus his mental and spiritual energies in a positive way during the worst time of his life.

Later, while applying for a job at a local gym, Brian meets Karina (Melanie Liburd), a personal trainer. On a date, he tells her about his wrongful conviction. Her initial discomfort is exacerbated by her own experience as a victim of sexual assault, but as she learns to trust Brian she becomes a source of support and comfort in his struggle to set the record straight.

When, out of the blue, Brian's accuser Kennisha (Xosha Roquemore) reaches out to him on social media, he's justifiably afraid. After all, any contact with her is enough to send him straight back to prison. But Brian also sees an opportunity to clear his name if he can get her to recant her accusation on camera, which he miraculously manages to do. Unfortunately, a legal technicality renders the video inadmissible.

Brian is not the kind of person who gives up easily, however. With time running out, he and Brooks make one last attempt to convince the District Attorney to reopen the case and vacate the wrongful conviction before it's too late.

An unforgettable true story about the resilience of the human spirit, and a powerful call to reform our broken justice system, **Brian Banks** is an extraordinary film that will move and inspire audiences with its message of hope and perseverance.

Brian Banks is directed by Tom Shadyac (*Bruce Almighty*, *The Nutty Professor*) from a screenplay by Doug Atchison (*Akeelah and the Bee*). The film stars Aldis Hodge ("Underground," *Hidden Figures*), Greg Kinnear (*Little Miss Sunshine*, *As Good as It Gets*), Sherri Shepherd (*Precious*, "30 Rock"), Melanie Liburd ("This is Us," "Gypsy") and Xosha Roquemore ("The Mindy Project," "I'm Dying Up Here"). Producers are Amy Baer (*Mary Shelley*, *Last Vegas*), Shivani Rawat (*Hotel Mumbai*, *Captain Fantastic*) and Monica Levinson (*Trumbo*, *Captain Fantastic*). Executive producers are Derrick Tseng (*Dark Horse*, *Prince Avalanche*), Tirrell D. Whittley (*Copwatch*, *Amazing Grace*), Brian Banks, Justin Brooks and Neil Strum.

The director of photography is Ricardo Diaz (*First Girl I Loved*, *The Violent Heart*). Production designer is Teresa Mastropierro ("Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," *New York, I Love You*). The film is edited by Greg Hayden (*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, *Tropic Thunder*). Costume designer is Amanda Ford (*Fear Street*, *Wildfire*). Music supervisors include Julianne Jordan (*A Star is Born*, *Pitch Perfect*) and Justin von Winterfeldt (*Instant Family*, "Impulse"). Music is by John Debney (*The Jungle Book*, *The Greatest Showman*). Casting director is Leah Daniels-Butler (*Lee Daniels' The Butler*, *Precious*).

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

In 2002, high school athlete Brian Banks was falsely accused of rape and kidnapping by a female classmate in Long Beach, California. Although he experienced a real-life nightmare that would have destroyed most other people, Banks survived five years behind bars and another five on probation. His story of perseverance gained widespread media attention in 2012 when he was exonerated with the help of the California Innocence Project.

Film producer Amy Baer (*Last Vegas*, *Mary Shelley*) of Gidden Media saw a news report about Banks' remarkable case on a Los Angeles TV station and knew instantly it was a story important enough to be shared on the big screen. "Brian's tale of survival was incredibly compelling," she says. "Here was a young man trying to reclaim a decade of his life that was stolen from him, and I felt that turning his past into a movie might be a way of transforming that negative moment into a positive one."

Three years later, "60 Minutes" aired a major report on Banks, which producer Shivani Rawat (*Trumbo*, *Captain Fantastic*) happened to see. Shortly thereafter, Baer met with Rawat and her producing partner Monica Levinson (*Danny Collins*, *Beirut*) and asked if they would be interested in developing a feature with her.

"I didn't even let Amy finish before I told her I was in," says Rawat. "Monica and I really wanted to tell this story with her."

The three producers traveled to New York to meet with Banks in person, and were each impressed with his indomitable spirit and positivity. "Brian lights up the room when he walks in," says Levinson. "He just makes you happy, and every time you look at him you think: 'How can you have gone through such a terrible experience and still be that human right now?'"

Rawat agrees. "He's a role model for everyone, because he never gave up. This ordeal changed his life, but he knew he had to continue living it somehow."

Achieving that level of persistence and optimism took practice, according to Banks. "Where I am today did not happen overnight," he explains. "It started with a choice. I try to put out into the world what I want to receive back. I want positivity, peace, and love in my world, and none of that is dictated by where you are or what you're going through. It's all dictated by how you see yourself and the world around you."

Banks says he agreed to have his life made into a feature film because he's committed to helping others who are struggling in a similar situation. "By telling my story in this movie, I hope that we can prevent, or at least minimize, wrongful convictions from continuing to happen in the future. The truth is that wrongful convictions and social injustices don't receive the recognition they should. Too often, it's out of sight, out of mind. If we don't talk about it, people won't ever get engaged enough to do something about it."

A Remarkable Life Story

To turn Banks' story into a script, Baer reached out to award-winning screenwriter Doug Atchison. "Amy was aware of a film I'd written and directed called *Akeelah and the Bee*," says Atchison. "Curiously enough, Brian actually saw that film while he was in prison. He had the ability to check out DVDs, so he watched it and told me later that it inspired him. Apparently when Amy and her team were talking with him about writers to tell his story, my name came up and he responded positively."

Atchison had followed Banks' exoneration in the news when it happened. "The mental toughness that allowed him to get through this ordeal deeply impressed me," the writer says. "This wasn't a case where people came in and rescued him. He very much rescued himself. Of course, he had a strong alliance with the California Innocence Project and Justin Brooks. But it was Brian's willpower that motivated the CIP to step up."

After signing on to write the script, Atchison met with Banks and discussed the events surrounding his wrongful incarceration. "Hearing this young man talk about what had happened to him in solitary confinement, and how he was able to get through it, really drew me in. He'd been waiting years to tell this story in its entirety, and that's what he did. He told me about his whole life."

Banks was working for the National Football League at the time, so the two men met at an NFL office in New York to talk things over. "It wasn't football season, so we had this big conference room all to ourselves," Atchison explains. "I brought my camera with me and recorded about 13 hours of Brian telling me his life story, from beginning to end. It was my job to ask the right questions in order to extract all the facts of what happened and how he felt about it."

Although he'd spoken with various subjects in the past while writing fact-based material, Atchison was caught off guard by Banks' enthusiastic candor. "I've never heard anybody tell their life story in such a complete and compelling way, over such a long period of time. I mean, this is something most people would take a couple weeks to do, but Brian did it over a single weekend. He just needed to get it out."

Those video interviews became a crucial element of the writing process. "I went over the footage carefully with the producers," says Atchison. "Then I asked for certain sections to be transcribed, which gave me a document I could constantly refer back to while writing. It became a sort of bible of Brian's story."

To gain additional insight, Atchison attended one of Brooks' wrongful conviction classes at the California Innocence Project's headquarters in San Diego. "I watched how they wrestled with a case, and I spoke with Alissa, one of Justin's students who we portray in the film, about how things worked. At that point I probably knew more about Brian's case than anyone except Brian and Justin, because I had the whole case file, the police reports, the court depositions, the videotaped interviews, everything. Although a lot of that information didn't end up in the movie, I felt like I had to understand it all."

Next Atchison faced the challenge of how to best convey the remarkable story he had been entrusted with in an emotionally engaging two-hour film. He decided to begin the script at the time when Banks had been released from prison but found he was still unable to build a life because of the legal restrictions put upon him. “I felt like the point where he was out trying to get work, trying to play football, and trying to move forward with this conviction hanging over him was the heart of the story,” he says. From there, Atchison takes viewers on a journey back and forth through the timeline of Banks’ life to reveal how he found himself in such a dire situation — and how he fought to overcome it.

The Director’s Chair

Baer had a number of potential directors in mind to helm **Brian Banks**, but after a two-hour meeting with acclaimed filmmaker Tom Shadyac (*The Nutty Professor*, *Bruce Almighty*) she was convinced he was the one best suited to the material. “I was blown away after talking with him,” Baer says. “I just knew this was a movie he was meant to make. I mean, this is who Tom is as an artist and as a human being. I really felt he could be true to Brian’s story while also making a very commercial film.”

The director’s deep and personal grasp of the film’s themes made him a perfect fit, according to Rawat. “Tom clearly cared about Brian and the pain he had endured,” she says. “In the end, he turned out a truly beautiful film that did the subject justice.”

Perhaps Shadyac’s biggest supporter on the film was Banks himself. “Tom is a standup guy,” he says. “The first time I met him, he approached me like he was just another person on the street. He said, ‘Hi, I’m Tom, and some people have asked me to join this project and I think I can do it justice.’ Then he asked me about my spirits, and he wanted to know what I learned about myself throughout the whole ordeal. He asked about my mom, my family and our struggle. These questions told me that he’s a person who looks beyond the surface of things. He’s a really deep guy.”

Shadyac had been looking for the right project to direct for some time when Baer sent him Atchison’s script. “I’d wanted to get back in the director’s chair, and after working in an underserved community in Memphis for years, Brian’s story spoke to me,” Shadyac says. “The issues he faced were emblematic of some of the students I’ve had the privilege of teaching and learning from, so it really hit home. These kids are not treated the same way as people from privileged communities are, and that breaks my heart.”

Like Banks, Shadyac felt a film about his wrongful conviction might help bring some much-needed attention to a problem that’s remained unexamined for far too long. “I really thought if we told this story effectively, it could speak to a lot of the issues that need to be addressed today about mass incarceration and the disproportionate number of people of color in our prison system,” he says.

Although he is best known for directing blockbuster comedies, **Brian Banks** isn’t Shadyac’s first dramatic feature. He directed the feature *Dragonfly*, starring Kevin Costner, Susanna Thompson and Kathy

Bates. “I learned a ton on that movie,” he says. “But nothing will help you make a drama better than getting your ass kicked in real life, and I’ve had my share of ups and downs.”

Shadyac is referring to a serious head injury he suffered during a bicycle accident in Virginia in 2007. The traumatic effects of that concussion prompted him to take a break from directing while he reevaluated his career and personal life, and started him down the path of teaching in Memphis. “It sort of helped me to recalibrate things in my life, and it gave me the opportunity to come and learn from a community that’s pulsing with promise.”

After signing on to direct **Brian Banks**, Shadyac worked with Atchison to further hone the script, for which the screenwriter has been honored with the 2019 Humanitas Prize for Best Independent Feature. “Doug is a great writer and really passionate about this material because he has personal ties to it,” he explains.

Shadyac’s comedy skills were invaluable when it came to making a film that will keep audiences engaged and entertained as well as enlightened, according to Atchison. “One of the things Tom counseled me on was balancing the script’s dark material with the light,” the writer says. “For instance, Brian’s time in prison was considerably longer in earlier drafts. But Tom advised me not to dwell too much in that dark area. He felt we could lead the audience through that period without lingering on it for too long.”

Indeed, notes Shadyac, a drama about someone who lost 10 years of their life for a crime they didn’t commit could easily drag viewers down a dark hole. “But you can’t forget to include some laughter as well, because that’s how people survive the darkest circumstances,” observes the director. “Brian had positive relationships with his teacher, with his mother and with Justin. They became his family, and families laugh and joke together. That’s one of the keys to moving forward in life, and that’s how Brian moved forward. He maintained his humanity in a dark situation, and we put that across in the movie.”

Becoming Brian

In the film’s title role, award-winning actor Aldis Hodge (*Hidden Figures*, *Straight Outta Compton*) delivers a performance of rare insight and depth, due in large part to the emotional bond he felt with Banks. “I knew instantly that this would be a special project for me because I really connected with the story and the character,” says Hodge. “Something about the way Doug wrote it just sparked my attention.”

Hodge admits to being nervous going into his first audition because of how badly he wanted the role. “Then about a week later, they asked me to come in again and meet with Tom Shadyac,” he recalls. “It was actually more of a discussion about who I was as a person. Tom really wanted to learn about me because he was searching for an element of synergy between Brian and the actor cast to portray him.”

Between that first and second audition, Hodge hit the gym and began bulking up. “I knew if I wanted this job I’d have to be prepared for it,” he says. “So, when Tom finally saw me, he said, ‘Man, you put on some weight!’ I think he respected the fact that I was showing him I was ready to do the work.”

Two months prior to shooting, Hodge met Banks for the first time. “We just sort of hung out at his apartment and talked for a couple hours, but there was a little more to it than that,” he says. “I really needed to meet him and make sure I could believe in him myself. I needed to see what kind of man he was in order to carry him with me for however long it took to shoot the film.”

During that initial meeting, Hodge told Banks he needed to beef up further in order to realistically approximate the 250-pound linebacker’s powerful physique. “From that moment on, we started training together in the gym several times a week until it was time to shoot,” says the actor. “We formed a strong bond in the gym. I tested myself every day, and Brian saw how hungry I was for the role.”

At Shadyac’s request, Hodge agreed to wear an actual GPS ankle monitor throughout production. “Since Brian had to register as a sex offender while on probation and wear an ankle monitor the entire time, I actually wore one for the majority of the film, right up until the scene where I was finally able to take it off.”

The unusual ploy had the psychological effect on the actor that Shadyac hoped it would. “Wearing a monitor puts you in a very different mindset,” says Hodge. “It makes you self-conscious on a whole new level. You walk around thinking everybody’s looking at you like you’re a criminal.”

Like everyone involved in the making of **Brian Banks**, Hodge remains enormously grateful to have had Shadyac behind the camera. “Tom was coming off a 10-year period of not making films because he went through a transformative experience,” he says. “Instead of directing, he dedicated his life to charity. But he came back more passionate than ever and he really poured his heart into this movie.”

Shadyac is equally effusive about Hodge’s performance. “Aldis brought a sense of authenticity and a lifetime of experience that the role needed,” he says. “Playing Brian Banks has to come from someplace deep in the soul, and when Aldis walked through that door and read a couple of the more challenging scenes, you could feel that this was a human being who had lived a full life, and he brought that experience to the role.”

Kinnear Takes the Case

Academy Award nominee Greg Kinnear (*As Good as It Gets*, *Little Miss Sunshine*) portrays crusading attorney Justin Brooks in **Brian Banks**, and brings his everyman charm and signature wit to the role. Shadyac saw Kinnear as the perfect actor to play Brooks, a law professor and director and co-founder of the California Innocence Project (CIP). “Justin Brooks is one of the most intelligent and compassionate people and Greg has those same qualities,” he says. “Plus he has a great sense of humor. Since there’s already so much drama in the film, I felt Greg could bring a degree of lightness.”

Immediately intrigued by the script, Kinnear sat down with Shadyac to discuss the project. Their meeting, scheduled for a single hour, quickly turned into four. “Tom was so passionate about the power of this story, and he had a very clear and cohesive vision for the movie,” says Kinnear. “A few weeks later, I went down to San Diego and attended one of Justin Brooks’ law school classes, and that’s all it took. I was totally on board.”

Kinnear was profoundly moved by the pro bono legal services that the nonprofit organization provides its clients. “There are lots of Innocence Projects, but CIP really stands out,” the actor says. “They’ve exonerated dozens of wrongly convicted people with limited resources, and I’m just blown away by the work they do. To witness Justin and his law students fight to overturn these injustices is humbling. Of course, Justin never takes a dime for this work. He just feels a powerful need to act on his clients’ behalf.”

To prepare for the role, Kinnear read as much as he could about the current state of the American justice system. What he discovered left him disheartened. “There’s no question that the system we have is broken, and Brian’s story provides a great example of both how and why,” he says. “By examining this case and showing what the Innocence Project could and couldn’t do to help him, the film gives viewers an overview of where we’re at. It offers a deep examination of how the system failed Brian and how he ultimately saved himself through determination and grit.”

Beyond the pressing social and legal issues, Kinnear was also drawn to the relationships the script portrays. “I liked the onscreen friendship between Brian and Justin,” he says. “There’s a real trust there that had to be earned before they took on the fight together. That relationship feels honest and natural, and the fact that they were able to succeed in court, given the circumstances working against them, is incredible.”

No stranger to portraying real-life figures on screen, Kinnear says he relished the chance to meet Brooks while researching the role. “He’s very welcoming and open about the work he does, and he has an incredibly easygoing attitude, which is hard to imagine when you spend your days staring into the abyss of the criminal justice system. I found him to be a sensitive guy who makes real connections with people.”

Sharing scenes with Hodge was another highlight of the shoot, says Kinnear. “Aldis is a total pro,” he says. “His skill and technique are awesome, which is important because he has a lot of heavy lifting to do in this film. He worked incredibly hard to find the soul of who Brian is, and I expect audiences will really connect with this story because of his work.”

A Serious Comedian

A number of stars were under consideration to portray Leomia Banks, Brian’s devoted mother, but it was Sherri Shepherd (*Beauty Shop*, “30 Rock”) who fought for and ultimately won the role.

“Leomia’s love for Brian hit me in such a profound way because I have a son who has special needs, and I have to fight for him and advocate for him on a regular basis,” she explains. “So, as a mom, I know what it means to be a rock for your child. During my audition, I told Tom about the heartache and pain of raising my son, and what I go through each day, and I think my story moved him and producer Amy Baer as well.”

Baer recalls Shepherd’s casting session well. “Every single actor shared something deeply personal with us about their own lives and why this story resonated for them,” she says. “But Sherri, in

particular, really opened herself up to us. There's an emotional authenticity to her performance that's impossible to ignore."

To learn more about the woman she was portraying, Shepherd visited the real Leomia Banks at her home for several hours before filming began. "I discovered that she's a quiet warrior who doesn't consider herself any kind of hero," says the actress. "In fact, she doesn't see herself as special at all. She's not one of those mothers that come out fighting, but she has a quiet strength that truly impressed me. That's what I got from meeting with her," Shepherd says.

Acting opposite Hodge was a joy, according to the actress. "He raised my game to another level. We had such a great chemistry together. There were times when he would look at me and say, 'Momma,' and my heart would break. I remember some of the extras were sobbing during one emotional scene, and Tom had to call cut. We literally had to embrace some extras and hug them because stories like Brian's have happened to a lot of people."

Best known for her expert comedy skills, Shepherd credits Shadyac with helping her explore her dramatic side on screen. "He's a genius at being able to bring out that side of a comedian. He guided me through the process and took me where I needed to go." Shepherd's heartfelt take on the character is essential to the film's emotional power, according to Rawat. "Leomia is one of the toughest roles to play in the film, and Sherri did such a beautiful job with it. Every time she comes on screen, you forget that she isn't Brian's real mom. You forget she's acting."

Banks gives Shepherd the ultimate stamp of approval. "Sherri has a smile that resembles my mom's," he says. "They have a slight physical similarity to each other, but where they really connect is in their motherly vibe. When I first told her that Sherri had been cast, she asked me, 'Do you think she'll be able to play me correctly?' Well, after their meeting, my mom texted me with exclamation marks stretched across the entire phone, and I could tell that she was thrilled about it. We're both very happy that Sherri is part of this project. I think she captured my mother's spirit perfectly."

A Guiding Force

For the small but pivotal role of Jerome Johnson, the real-life mentor who provided Brian with the mental and spiritual tools necessary to survive his years in prison, Shadyac cast Oscar-winning actor Morgan Freeman, who had previously played God in two of the director's hit comedies, *Bruce Almighty* and *Evan Almighty*.

"He was the first person I thought of to play Mr. Johnson when I read the script," Shadyac says. "But I figured we couldn't get him for our small-budget movie — because he'd probably be shooting a big-budget movie somewhere — so we initially cast another actor instead."

When that actor got sick at the last minute and was unable to travel, Shadyac sent Freeman the **Brian Banks** script. "Morgan read it and was moved by it, so he came in," recalls the director. "Now I can't

imagine anyone else playing Jerome Johnson. Perhaps no one involved in the film was more delighted with Freeman's participation than Banks himself. "If I had to pick the perfect actor to play one of the strongest men I know in this world, I would choose Morgan Freeman — and he actually played the role!" Banks exclaims. "I don't know if I have enough words to describe that."

Meeting one of his favorite actors in a functioning jail was a surreal experience, says Banks. "Just to sit next to him, and talk and laugh with him, and have some really powerful and engaging conversations about life and spirituality was incredible. What a week that was! As amazing and unique as Morgan Freeman is, that's who Mr. Johnson is. He's given his life to working with incarcerated youth who are about to be sent to adult jail."

Taking off the Mask

For the role of Karina, the empathetic personal trainer who befriends Banks after he confesses his painful history to her, the filmmakers cast British actress Melanie Liburd ("This Is Us," "Dark Matter"). "So much of her role is about the masks we wear in life, because Karina has her own difficult background," explains Shadyac. "And when her mask is finally removed and we get to see what's underneath it, and why she reacted the way she did to Brian's story, we understand and feel for her."

Born in Hertfordshire, England, Liburd wasn't in the U.S. when Banks' story was originally in the press. "But when I asked my American friends about it, they'd all heard of him," the actress says. "It was the film's message of hope that initially attracted me to the role. Brian is an incredible human being to have such faith and not be broken by what happened to him. He's a positive and giving person, and to be an actor working on stories like this that have such meaning and hope is really special."

Liburd describes her character as a smart woman who doesn't want to be defined by what happened to her in the past. Although she's experienced her own tragedy, she wants to move forward and be the best version of herself she can be. "So, when she meets Brian they inspire each other," Liburd says.

After meeting the Bankses on set and working with the talented cast and crew to bring Brian's story to life, Liburd says she's grateful for the experience. "*Brian Banks* tells a very important story, and I'm so proud to be part of it. This movie shines a light on how the criminal justice system really needs to change. Brian was tried as an adult when he shouldn't have been, and he was put away for so long for a crime he didn't commit. The injustice of that is staggering."

No Villains

Shadyac and the film's producers felt it was important that Kennisha Rice — the fictional character representing Banks' accuser in the film — not be portrayed as a traditional cinematic villain. "I believe you have to love all the characters in your movie, even the ones who make choices you don't agree with," Shadyac explains. "So, we wanted to avoid vilification and concentrate on authenticity instead."

Actress Xosha Roquemore (*Precious*, “The Mindy Project”) delivers a memorable performance in the difficult role. “I often tell people that I don’t cast roles; the actors come in and take them,” says Shadyac. “And that’s what Xosha did. She somehow connected with the energy of this character to the point where it didn’t seem like she was playing Kennisha, she simply *was* Kennisha.”

Shepherd, who had previously worked with Roquemore on the film *Precious*, is equally effusive about the actress’ nuanced performance. “Even though her character in *Brian Banks* does this horrendous thing, Xosha shows us the pain and hurt inside of Kennisha, so you can’t help but feel a degree of sympathy for her. She’s not a black-and-white villain. She’s broken.”

An Invaluable Resource

Banks’ presence on set throughout much of the production provided the filmmakers with an invaluable resource, says Shadyac. “It was imperative to have Brian there. He was like a walking Wikipedia on the history and the truth of the story. Whether we were in a courtroom or on a football field, we could turn to him and ask if we were getting things right or if we were missing something.”

More than perhaps anyone else in the cast and crew, Hodge relied on Banks’ input while filming. “Having him right there during the production was like having a living cheat sheet available,” the actor says. “If there was any question about how to play something, we just talked it out. There were plenty of times when we’d have deep conversations about what was happening in the scene we were shooting, and if you happened to look over at us, you’d see two grown men just sitting there talking and crying together. But they were healing tears.”

Understandably, there were moments depicted in the film that were difficult for Banks to relive. The incarceration scenes — which were shot in an active prison — were particularly challenging for Banks. “They weren’t something I looked forward to, but this film gave me the opportunity to share something traumatic that happened to me, and having that platform far outweighed the fear I had of going back into a jail,” he says. “When I first walked into a prison at the age of 16 after being wrongfully convicted, I was chained from the waist down, and I ended up spending five years behind those bars. So, being able to walk back in there as a free man, show the world what happened to me, and then walk out again felt like coming full circle.”

Keeping It Real

Since *Brian Banks* is based on actual events, authenticity was extremely important to everyone involved in bringing it to the screen. “The story is very truthful in terms of what happened to Brian,” says Shadyac. “Of course, there is some time-collapsing here and there, and there are a few composite characters, like Karina, who represented different people in Brian’s life, but it’s still quite accurate.”

According to Atchison, some of the conversations between Banks and Brooks in the movie — which serve as a vehicle to convey key background information to the audience — are more detailed than they probably were in real life. “But everything they discuss is absolutely real. I’ve written true stories before that deviate quite a bit from reality, but this film adheres to the facts.”

As an example of the degree of accuracy involved, Kinnear singles out the film’s final courtroom scene, in which Brooks pleads Banks’ case to the judge who previously sentenced him. “Tom set that courtroom scene up exactly as it took place in real life,” says the actor. “I spoke to Justin Brooks a lot about that day in court, when Brian’s case was finally overturned. The monologue I deliver was written using mostly court transcripts, and everyone involved in the production wanted to get the moment right, out of respect for the story.”

Faith in Dark Times

Belief in a higher power is one of the things that gave Banks and his mother strength during his period of wrongful imprisonment, and it’s something Atchison and Shadyac felt needed to be included. “Brian and his mother’s faith comes up in the way they both communicate,” Atchison explains. “It’s a part of their family that binds them and gives them strength, so we had to honor that.”

That said, the film steers clear of overt references to a specific religion, because it was important to the filmmakers that it resonate with viewers of any religion — or no religion. “Faith is about how you walk in a difficult situation,” says Shadyac. “It’s a mother selling her house to pay for her son’s defense because he’s innocent. It’s a mother driving three hours, twice a week, to visit him when he’s incarcerated unjustly. It’s a son learning to believe in himself and finding the power that’s within him. Leomia and Brian express their faith through their behavior and by choosing to remain positive in dark circumstances. I hope that’s reflected in the movie.”

An Inspiring Message

Shadyac says he hopes viewers will see **Brian Banks** as a metaphor for their own lives. “Brian demonstrates the hero’s journey as well as any character I’ve ever encountered in my career. All of us face obstacles, and I’d like people to realize that if Brian could face his situation with courage, they can face the circumstances in their lives, too.”

The socially conscious director also hopes the film’s timely message about wrongful convictions will help facilitate long-overdue change to the judicial system. “People need to be made aware that there are populations in this country that don’t get a fair shake,” he says. “Ninety-seven percent of inmates in our jail systems accepted a plea bargain, and when a lawyer threatens you with 40 years behind bars if you don’t cop a plea for something that you didn’t do, that’s not right, and we’re all responsible for it.”

Kinnear says he too hopes audiences are inspired by Banks' story and will reflect upon the inherent weaknesses of our criminal justice system. "But," he adds, "I also hope they go because it's enormously entertaining!"

Banks is hopeful the film will inspire as many people as possible when it's released. "A lot of people are walking around feeling unhappy or dejected, and I want this movie to uplift them and give them courage. Because if you think differently you act differently. And if you act differently, different things happen around you. It's a domino effect, and it starts with this film."

For the time being, he has a final message for the cast and crew of **Brian Banks**. "I love everyone involved in this project. Knowing that filmmakers signed up to tell my story shows that people really do care about justice and equality. I'm just so thankful for that."

ABOUT THE CAST

ALDIS HODGE (Brian Banks) is a SAG Award-winning actor who has built a dynamic career as a versatile performer who shines in roles in both film and television. Hodge is perhaps best known for his role as Noah in WGN's critically acclaimed series "Underground," starring alongside Jurnee Smollett-Bell and Christopher Meloni. Most recently, he was seen in *What Men Want*, opposite Taraji P. Henson.

Hodge stars alongside Kevin Bacon as the co-lead in the Showtime series "City on a Hill," produced by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. Set in Boston in the early '90s, the drama centers on an unlikely alliance between an African-American district attorney and a veteran FBI agent during the real-life event known as the "Boston Miracle."

Earlier this year Hodge starred in *Clemency*, which won the Dramatic Grand Jury Prize at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. The film focuses on a death row inmate (Hodge) and the prison warden (Alfre Woodard) who is charged with his execution. The story examines the emotional toll on all involved.

In 2018 Hodge appeared in an episode of the CBS All Access short series "Star Trek: Short Treks," based on the movie "Star Trek: Discovery," and the Netflix anthology series "Medal of Honor." In 2017 he was seen in the critically acclaimed film *Hidden Figures*, alongside Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer and Janelle Monáe. The film received three Oscar® nominations including Best Picture and two Golden Globe Award® nominations, in addition to winning a SAG Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture and an NAACP Award for Outstanding Motion Picture. That same year, Hodge appeared in the fourth season of the Emmy Award®-winning series "Black Mirror."

In 2016 Hodge co-starred with Tom Cruise in Edward Zwick's *Jack Reacher: Never Go Back*. The previous year he played MC Ren, a member of the pioneering rap group N.W.A., in *Straight Outta Compton*. The film captivated audiences all over the world and was nominated for an Academy Award as well as PGA and SAG honors. The film won the NAACP Award for Outstanding Motion Picture.

On the small screen, Hodge became a fan favorite in his role as Alec Hardison on TNT's highly rated television series "Leverage," which nabbed a People's Choice Award in 2013. His other television credits include "Turn," "Friday Night Lights," "Supernatural," "The Walking Dead," "The Blacklist," "City of Angels," "Bones," "CSI," "ER," "Charmed" and "Boston Public."

At the age of 3 Hodge began his career when he booked a print job for *Essence* magazine. He continued to work as a model for print ads and commercials until making the transition into acting when he and his brother were cast on "Sesame Street." They also joined the Tony Award®-winning revival of "Show Boat" on Broadway. During that period Hodge appeared in the features *Die Hard With a Vengeance*, *Bed of Roses*, *Edmond*, *The Lady Killers* and *Big Momma's House*.

Hodge was born in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and raised in New York. In addition to acting he is developing projects for film and television, designs luxury timepieces and is an avid artist and painter.

GREG KINNEAR (Justin Brooks) is an Academy Award nominee and Emmy-winning actor who continues to draw audiences and critical acclaim with diverse and interesting roles in both television and film. In 2006 Kinnear starred in *Little Miss Sunshine*, which was lauded by critics nationwide and earned several Academy Award nominations and Independent Spirit Award wins. Kinnear, Steve Carell, Alan Arkin, Abigail Breslin, Paul Dano and Toni Collette won the SAG Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture. More recently, Kinnear appeared in *Same Kind of Different as Me*, opposite Renée Zellweger, and *Brigsby Bear*, which premiered at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival.

Kinnear recently played the title role in the dark comedy *Phil*. The film, co-starring Emily Mortimer, Luke Wilson and Jay Duplass, also marks his feature directorial debut. He also appears in *The Red Sea Diving Resort*, opposite Chris Evans and Ben Kingsley, and Ira Sachs' *Frankie*, with Marisa Tomei and Isabelle Huppert. Kinnear worked with Sachs on 2016's *Little Men*, co-starring Jennifer Ehle.

The actor recently wrapped production on *Misbehaviour*, opposite Keira Knightley, and *Dreamland*, alongside Gary Oldman. Both films are set to be released in 2020. He is currently in production on Lee Daniels' pilot "Good People," for Amazon. Kinnear stars opposite Lisa Kudrow.

On the small screen Kinnear was last seen in the CBS All Access anthology series "The Twilight Zone," for Jordan Peele and Jason Blum; Amazon's series "Electric Dreams," based on the work of Philip K. Dick; the sixth season of Netflix's award-winning political drama "House of Cards," opposite Robin Wright and Diane Lane; and the Emmy-nominated HBO film "Confirmation," with Kerry Washington.

In 2012 Kinnear guest starred on the award-winning ABC hit series "Modern Family" as Phil's (Ty Burrell) inappropriate boss Tad. The performance earned him an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series. His performance as John F. Kennedy in Jon Cassar's "The Kennedys," co-starring Katie Holmes and Barry Pepper, netted Emmy and SAG nominations. In 2014 Kinnear starred in the U.S. version of the popular Australian legal drama "Rake."

Kinnear made his feature film debut in Sydney Pollack's *Sabrina*, opposite Harrison Ford and Julia Ormond. His performance resulted in him being named NATO ShoWest's Star of Tomorrow. In 1997 Kinnear starred alongside Jack Nicholson in James L. Brooks' Oscar-nominated dramedy *As Good as It Gets*. His performance not only garnered an Academy Award nomination but the National Board of Review's Best Supporting Actor honors. Next, he co-starred in Nora Ephron's *You've Got Mail*, with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.

The actor's additional film credits include *Anchorman: The Legend Continues*, *Heaven Is for Real*, *The English Teacher*, *Stuck in Love*, *Thin Ice*, *I Don't Know How She Does It*, *Salvation Boulevard*, *Auto Focus*, *Invincible*, *Fast Food Nation*, *Green Zone*, *Ghost Town*, *Feast of Love*, *What Planet Are You From?*, *Mystery Men*, *The Matador*, *Bad News Bears*, *We Were Soldiers*, *Someone Like You*, *Stuck on You*, *The Gift*, *Unknown*, *Nurse Betty* and *Baby Mama*.

Kinnear grew up living around the world as his family followed his State Department father to disparate locales from Indiana to Washington, D.C., Lebanon and Greece. He currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife and three daughters.

SHERRI SHEPHERD (Leomia) has a magnetic personality and hilarious sense of humor that never fails to delight audiences, whether she is performing on stage or screen. The actress, comedienne and bestselling author also serves as a weekly co-host of the nationally syndicated radio program “The Tom Joyner Morning Show.” Shepherd has been busy touring on the successful “Ladies Night Out” comedy tour with fellow female comics Loni Love, NeNe Leakes and Adele Givens.

Shepherd has several television and film projects being released this year, including the film *Walk.Ride.Rodeo*, Netflix comedy series “Mr. Iglesias” and the Game Show Network’s “Best Ever Trivia Show.”

No stranger to daytime TV, Shepherd was the co-host of “The View” during seasons 11–17 and in 2009 helped earn the seminal talk show its only Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Talk Show Host. That same year she and her co-hosts were included in *Time* magazine’s list of the “100 Most Influential People in the World” and *Forbes* ranked them No. 11 among “30 of the Most Influential Women in Media.” Shepherd returned to “The View” as a contributor for Season 19.

Shepherd has co-starred in a number of primetime series, including “Trial and Error,” “Man With a Plan,” “Less Than Perfect,” “Suddenly Susan,” “How I Met Your Mother,” “Everybody Loves Raymond,” “The Jamie Foxx Show,” “Rosewood” and “30 Rock.” In addition to executive producing and starring in her own Lifetime sitcom, “Sherri,” Shepherd received strong reviews for playing the lead in the Lifetime movie “Abducted: The Carlina White Story.”

Shepherd is the first African-American woman to host a game show, serving as host of the highly rated “The Newlywed Game” for four seasons. She also co-executive produced and hosted “Match Made in Heaven,” the critically acclaimed dating show. Under Shepherd’s reign, the second season tripled the ratings of the first. She also starred in her own Epix comedy standup special, “Sherri Shepherd: It’s My Time to Talk” and served as an executive producer and host of the cooking series “Holy & Hungry.”

On the film side, Shepherd co-starred with Katherine Heigl in *One for the Money* and appeared with Chris Rock in *Top Five*. Her other film credits include *Precious*, *Woodlawn*, *Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa*, *Guess Who?*, *Who’s Your Caddy?*, *Beauty Shop* and *Ride Along 2*.

Shepherd enjoyed a successful run in the critically acclaimed Off Broadway hit “Love, Loss and What I Wore” and also broke new ground on stage as the first African American to portray the evil stepmother in Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella.”

As author of the *New York Times* bestseller Plan D: How to Lose Weight and Beat Diabetes (Even If You Don't Have It), Shepherd shared her passion for maintaining good health. She also penned the humorous Permission Slips: Every Woman's Guide to Giving Herself a Break.

Shepherd deems motherhood as her greatest accomplishment and is the grateful parent of a 14-year-old son, Jeffrey. Well acquainted with the tragedy and triumph of raising a child with special needs, she has partnered with the YAI National Institute to raise awareness about children and adults with disabilities.

MELANIE LIBURD (Karina) won a 2019 SAG Award as a member of the cast of the critically acclaimed NBC series “This Is Us.” She was recently a series regular on the Netflix drama series “Gypsy,” alongside Naomi Watts and Billy Crudup. Liburd played a leading role in the feature *Double Play* and was a series regular on the Syfy series “Dark Matter.” She has also guest-starred on the CBS series “CSI” and “Stalker,” Fox’s “The Grinder” and HBO’s “Game of Thrones.”

Born in London, the actress now resides in Los Angeles.

XOSHA ROQUEMORE (Kennisha Rice) is best known for her role as Tamra in “The Mindy Project,” which she joined in 2014 as a series regular after a three-episode guest stint in the first season. She was recently seen in a recurring role on Showtime’s “I’m Dying Up Here” and has appeared in such features as Whitney Cummings’ *The Female Brain*, James Franco’s *The Disaster Artist* and anthology film *Mississippi Requiem*. In 2009 Roquemore starred in her first major feature, Lee Daniels’ Oscar winner *Precious*.

A Los Angeles native, Roquemore started acting when she joined the Amazing Grace Conservatory in ninth grade. After graduating high school, she moved to New York City and earned a degree in acting from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

TOM SHADYAC (Director) is one of Hollywood's most successful comedy directors, with his films *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, *The Nutty Professor*, *Liar Liar*, *Patch Adams* and *Bruce Almighty* grossing nearly \$2 billion at the box office.

Of Lebanese descent, Shadyac comes from a unique and diverse background. He's been an actor, screenwriter and standup comic, while studying in-depth monastic traditions, ancient philosophy, mystic poetry, myth and storytelling. What sets the director apart is his rare ability to blend humor and heart.

This film marks Shadyac's return to narrative filmmaking following a sabbatical in which he spent much of his time making documentaries (*I Am* and *Happy*), teaching and working with students from underserved communities in Memphis, Tennessee.

DOUG ATCHISON (Writer) wrote and directed the award-winning feature film *Akeelah and the Bee*, starring Laurence Fishburne, Angela Bassett and Keke Palmer. The film was a commercial and critical success that netted Atchison the NAACP Image Award for Best Screenplay. His script also won a Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting and was recently adapted into a stage play performed around the country.

Atchison is currently set to direct his original screenplay *Out Spoken*, a love story set in the world of basketball and spoken-word poetry. He is producing the film alongside John Legend, Lou Pitt and Laura Rister.

Atchison recently adapted the memoir [The Reading Promise](#) into a feature screenplay for Walden Media. He also penned the feature adaptation of the novel [Calling Me Home](#), an interracial love story set in 1939 Kentucky, and is currently writing the script *Counterfeit* for Will Smith's production company. Additionally, Atchison is attached to write and direct *Both Ends of the Gun*, for producers Bob Israel and Dan Halperin.

Previously, Atchison co-wrote the screen adaptation of Rebecca Gilman's play "Spinning Into Butter," starring Sarah Jessica Parker. He works frequently as a "script doctor" on feature films for major studios and production companies.

Atchison has been making movies since the age of 14 and graduated from the USC School of Cinema-Television. He sits on the Inclusion and Equity Group for the Writers Guild of America and is an active board member for A Place Called Home, a youth center in South Los Angeles.

AMY BAER (Producer) has experience in the entertainment industry that spans major studios, independent financiers and producing. Collectively, the films she has supervised and/or produced have grossed nearly \$2 billion in worldwide box-office receipts. Her first film as a producer was the 2013 hit *Last*

Vegas, starring Michael Douglas, Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline. The film grossed \$136 million worldwide.

In 2012 Baer raised a seven-figure development fund and launched Gidden Media, a content incubation and production company. Its first film, the romantic drama *Mary Shelley*, starred Elle Fanning and was directed by Haifaa Al-Mansour. After making its world premiere at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival, the film was released by IFC in 2018.

Before starting her own company Baer launched the CBS Films division for CBS Corp. and served as president and CEO from 2007 to 2011. She spent the previous 17 years at Sony Pictures Entertainment, where she oversaw such hit films as *My Best Friend's Wedding* (1997), *Adaptation* (2001), *S.W.A.T.* (2002), *Something's Gotta Give* (2003) and *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006), which earned Will Smith an Oscar nomination. Baer also developed the 2011 Oscar nominee *Moneyball*, starring Brad Pitt. In 1988 she began her career at Creative Artists Agency, as an assistant to the late Jay Moloney.

Baer became board president of Women in Film in 2018, stepping into this role at a critical juncture in Hollywood as the entertainment industry faced a broad reckoning over gender disparities and sexual harassment. Founded in 1973, Women in Film advocates for and advances the careers of women working in the screen industries, helping them achieve parity and ultimately transform our culture.

Baer graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University in 1988 with a B.A. in English literature. She is married to producer Matt Baer and has two sons.

SHIVANI RAWAT (Producer) is the founder and CEO of ShivHans Pictures, a production and finance company creating unique and compelling feature films outside the Hollywood studio model. The company strives to keep the financing process simple in an effort to fully support independent filmmakers and their visions, while collaborating with top-tier talent.

Rawat is currently producing *The Water Man* (alongside Harpo Productions, directed by David Oyelowo and starring Oyelowo, Rosario Dawson and Alfred Molina) and *Wander Darkly*, a magical realism tale about a couple who must navigate the aftermath of a devastating car crash. Directed by Tara Miele, the film stars Sienna Miller and Diego Luna.

Since starting ShivHans, Rawat has produced an impressive roster of films. In 2015 she served as an executive producer on the first ShivHans film, *Danny Collins*. Directed by Dan Fogelman, the film featured an all-star cast including Al Pacino, who was nominated for a Golden Globe for his performance. Her second film was Jay Roach's *Trumbo*, starring Bryan Cranston in an Oscar-, Golden Globe- and SAG Award-nominated performance. Rawat followed this success with the critically acclaimed box-office hit *Captain Fantastic*, which premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival and went on to win the Un Certain Regard directing prize for filmmaker Matt Ross at Cannes. The film won both the Audience Award and Jury Prize at

the Deauville Film Festival and garnered Academy Award, Golden Globe and SAG nominations for star Viggo Mortensen (Best Actor).

Rawat also produced *The Polka King*, a comedy starring Jack Black and Jenny Slate that premiered at Sundance and was released in 2018 as a Netflix Original; and *Beirut*, a drama starring Jon Hamm and Rosamund Pike that premiered at Sundance in 2018 and was released by Bleecker Street.

MONICA LEVINSON (Producer) is president of production at ShivHans Pictures, a production and finance company creating unique and compelling projects outside the Hollywood studio model, while collaborating with top-tier talent.

Since joining ShivHans, Levinson has produced several films, including David Oyelowo's *The Water Man* (currently in post production), starring Oyelowo, Rosario Dawson and Lonnie Chavis, producing alongside Harpo Productions; Tara Miele's *Wander Darkly*, starring Sienna Miller and Diego Luna (also currently in post production); Brad Anderson's *Beirut*, written by Tony Gilroy with stars Jon Hamm and Rosamund Pike; Jay Roach's *Trumbo*, starring Bryan Cranston in a performance that garnered Academy Award, Golden Globe and SAG Award nominations; *Captain Fantastic*, with Viggo Mortensen, Frank Langella and Kathryn Hahn; and *The Polka King*, starring Jack Black and Jenny Slate. Also with ShivHans, Levinson executive produced Dan Fogelman's *Danny Collins*, starring Al Pacino.

Before entering the world of feature films Levinson cut her teeth working in broadcast news, where she covered the fast-paced happenings on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. She made her initial foray into film on prominent features with noted directors Alan Pakula, Sidney Lumet and Michael Mann. Levinson went on to lend her talents to hits like *Zoolander*, *Dodgeball*, *Clear History* and *Borat*. The latter film garnered an Academy Award nomination for its screenplay and was included on the American Film Institute's list of the "Top 10 Films of 2006."

DERRICK TSENG (Executive Producer) has worked in New York film and television production for 30 years, first as union lighting technician, then as first assistant director and production manager, then as line producer and producer. He has produced, among other projects, David Gordon Green's pilot "Red Oaks," Comedy Central's "Stella" and the features *Manglehorn*, *Joe*, *Prince Avalanche* (all directed by David Gordon Green), *Wiener-Dog*, *Dark Horse*, *Life During Wartime* and *Palindromes* (all directed by Todd Solondz). Tseng is currently producing Alla Kovgan's *Cunningham 3D* and Braden King's *The Evening Hour*.

Tseng co-produced or line-produced features such as Adrienne Shelly's *Sudden Manhattan*, Kevin Smith's *Chasing Amy*, Brad Anderson's *Happy Accidents*, Peter Lauer's *Cry Baby Lane*, Patrick Stettner's *The Business of Strangers*, Bertha Bay-Sa Pan's *Face*, David Gordon Green's *All the Real Girls* and *Snow Angels*, Fenton

Bailey and Randy Barbato's *Party Monster*, Steve Buscemi's *Lonesome Jim*, David Wain's *The Ten*, Clark Gregg's *Choke* and Andrew Lau's *Revenge of the Green Dragons*.

Tseng was born in Queens, New York, and attended NYU's graduate film program. He holds an M.A. in comparative literature from NYU and a B.A. in English and art history from Columbia University. He now lives in lovely Gowanus, Brooklyn.

TIRRELL D. WHITTLEY (Executive Producer) is CEO and founder of LIQUID SOUL and with this film makes his producing debut. Best known for his work in marketing television and films, Whittley has developed campaigns for legendary properties and blockbuster hits. His film credits include *Black Panther*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, the Jackie Robinson biopic *42*, *War for the Planet of the Apes*, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* and *Fast & Furious 6*. His small-screen work includes "Black-ish," "The Voice," "Empire," "Power" and numerous other series.

A trusted advisor and expert in millennial and multicultural marketing, Whittley's strategies have made his agency the go-to firm for results-driven marketing. Since establishing LIQUID SOUL in 2011, he is credited with driving campaigns for over 30 No. 1 studio films and more than 150 films that have generated over \$2 billion at the box office.

Among his many distinctions, Whittley has been recognized as the Atlanta Business League's Entrepreneur of the Year and is an inductee into Florida A&M University's School of Business and Industry (SBI) Hall of Fame. He is a recipient of multiple honors including the Film Advocate Award from the BronzeLens Film Festival, the Innovators Award from the Black Women Film Network and a spot on the *Who's Who in Atlanta* and *Atlanta Tribune's* "Top 25 Architects of Success" list.

Whittley is a cum laude graduate of Florida A&M University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. He is active in his community as a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., American Marketing Association (AMA) Atlanta Chapter, 100 Black Men of Atlanta, BronzeLens Film Festival, Atlanta Business League and Florida A&M University Foundation. The producer is also an ordained deacon in his church and currently resides in a suburb of Atlanta with his wife and two daughters.

BRIAN BANKS (Subject, Executive Producer) is one of the country's most prominent exonerees and a former football star who inspires with his unforgettable, life-affirming story of resiliency, redemption and triumph over adversity and injustice. Banks was a high school football star with a full scholarship to USC and his sights set on the NFL. Those dreams were shattered when he was falsely accused and compelled to plea bargain "no contest" to one count of rape at the age of 16. Ultimately, with the help of the California Innocence Project, Banks was exonerated after serving more than five years in prison and an additional five years on parole for crimes he did not commit.

Having secured his freedom, Banks recaptured his dreams of playing in the NFL. After trying out for numerous teams, he signed with the Atlanta Falcons in 2013 and played with them throughout the preseason that year. Soon thereafter he was offered a job at the NFL's front office by Commissioner Roger Goodell himself.

Banks has gone on to become a life coach and nationally recognized public speaker who has been invited across the country and internationally. He sits on the advisory boards of the California Innocence Project and the National Registry of Exonerations. In 2017 Banks co-hosted "Final Appeal," a television series for the Oxygen network in which he sought to uncover the truth behind controversial cases that may have led to wrongful convictions.

JUSTIN BROOKS (Subject, Executive Producer) is the director and co-founder of the California Innocence Project and a tenured professor of law at California Western School of Law in San Diego. Over the course of his career Brooks has served as counsel on many high-profile criminal cases and has exonerated 29 innocent people, including Brian Banks. He has been recognized several times by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* as one of the "Top 100 Lawyers in California" and in 2010 and 2012 *California Lawyer* magazine honored him with its Lawyer of the Year Award. Brooks speaks around the world about innocence work and is the author of the only legal casebook devoted to the topic of wrongful convictions.

NEIL STRUM (Executive Producer), along with Justin Brooks, previously represented Brian Banks and was responsible for negotiating Banks' life rights/executive producing deal with Amy Baer and Gidden Media. He presently serves as executive vice president, business and legal affairs, at Platform One Media. Strum has also previously served as executive vice president, business and legal affairs, for Universal Television and senior vice president, business affairs, for the William Morris Agency.

RICARDO DIAZ (Director of Photography) is a Los Angeles-based cinematographer who has shot award-winning feature films, documentaries and commercials all over the world. Earlier this year Diaz wrapped his next film, *The Violent Heart*, featuring rising stars Jovan Adepo and Grace Van Patten. He also recently shot material for the documentary *Dealt*, which won the Audience Award for documentary feature at SXSW 2017.

Diaz's commercial clients include Microsoft, Verizon, T-Mobile, Quaker Oats, Major League Baseball, SoFi and Proactiv, for whom he shot a 2017 Super Bowl spot starring Olivia Munn. His narrative feature credits include *First Girl I Loved* (Best of Next! Audience Award winner, 2016 Sundance Film Festival) and *The Young Kieslowski* (Audience Award winner, 2014 Los Angeles Film Festival).

TERESA MASTROPIERRO (Production Designer) got her start in New York, where she worked as an art director and scenic artist on films such as *The Yards* and *Pollock*. In 2000 Mastropierro became the production designer on the Comedy Central series “Strangers with Candy.” She then went on to work on feature films such as *Forty Shades of Blue* and *New York, I Love You*.

From 2006 to 2013 Mastropierro designed the acclaimed NBC sitcom “30 Rock” and then went on to production-design Netflix’s “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt,” which was featured in many articles focusing on her groundbreaking use of color. Mastropierro is currently designing “Happy!” for Syfy.

GREG HAYDEN (Editor) has edited such films as *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*, *Zoolander* and *Tropic Thunder*. For the latter film he received an American Cinema Editors (ACE) Eddie Award nomination for Best Edited Feature: Comedy or Musical. His credits as an additional editor or co-editor include *Blades of Glory*, *Meet the Parents*, *Mystery*, *Alaska*, *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*, *Austin Powers in Goldmember* and *Forever Young*.

AMANDA FORD (Costume Designer) is a New York-based designer whose credits include feature films *Wildlife*, directed by Paul Dano and starring Carey Mulligan and Jake Gyllenhaal; *Her Smell*, directed by Alex Ross Perry and starring Elisabeth Moss, Agyness Deyn and Cara Delevingne; and *Drinking Buddies*, directed by Joe Swanberg and starring Olivia Wilde and Jake Johnson. She has also worked on music videos for Willie Nelson, Bon Jovi and Fall Out Boy, as well as documentary features with Alex Gibney, including the 2007 Academy Award winner *Taxi to the Dark Side*. She recently completed work on *Zara Hayes’ Poms*, which stars Diane Keaton and Jacki Weaver as renegade senior-citizen cheerleaders.

JULIANNE JORDAN (Music Supervisor) is one of the original members of Format Entertainment. She is an influential and creative member of the company’s brand efforts and unquestionably one of the most prominent and respected music supervisors in the industry. She is frequently brought in to supervise, consult or executive music produce on projects where a high level of creativity and technical expertise is required to realize sonic concepts and execute difficult onscreen scenarios. On *Alvin and the Chipmunks* Jordan helped reinvent a classic sound, and throughout the *Pitch Perfect* franchise she helped breathe new life into the classic world of a cappella music.

Jordan’s other film credits include *A Star Is Born*, *Trolls*, *Edge of Tomorrow*, *Mr. and Mrs. Smith* and *The Bourne Identity*. Her work extends well beyond the silver screen, allowing her the opportunities to supervise live concert productions of Disney’s “The Little Mermaid” (2016) and “Beauty and the Beast” (2018) at the world-famous Hollywood Bowl.

An accomplished violist who studied her craft at Skidmore College, Jordan’s career as a music supervisor began to take flight when director Doug Liman brought her in to work on a small independent

picture called *Swingers*. The film ignited the “swing” craze in the ’90s, spawned a new vernacular and pushed the public’s interest in retro swing music into hyperdrive. The soundtrack quickly went gold and Jordan hasn’t stopped working since.

Jordan has served two terms on the Board of Governors for the Los Angeles Chapter of the Recording Academy and has won numerous awards and accolades for her innovative approach to music supervision. In addition to both a Grammy Award® nomination and Billboard Music Award (Best Soundtrack) for her exemplary work on *Pitch Perfect 2*, Jordan has taken home two Music Supervisor of the Year Awards from the Guild of Music Supervisors and a 2015 American Music Award.

JUSTINE VON WINTERFELDT (Music Supervisor) has been active in the film, TV and music industries for over 10 years. She began her career as a music coordinator for supervisor Ann Kline and worked on several well-known TV shows including “Shameless,” “Under the Dome,” “Harry’s Law” and “The Lying Game.” She also served as music supervisor on the CW series “In the Dark” and ABC’s “Black Box.” Her feature credits include *Instant Family*, *Next Gen*, *The Catcher Was a Spy* and *The Party’s Just Beginning*.

Von Winterfeldt joined Format Entertainment in early 2014, starting as a music coordinator to Julia Michels and carving out a position as a supervisor. In this capacity she worked on such highly acclaimed films as *Trolls*, *Pitch Perfect 2* and *Bad Moms*. She is currently supervising a variety of notable projects including the YouTube series “Impulse,” animated film *The Willoughbys* and Amazon series “Invincible.”

Von Winterfeldt is a classically trained pianist and an active member of both the Guild of Music Supervisors and the Recording Academy.

JOHN DEBNEY (Composer) is the ultimate film music “character actor” who is in equal demand for family films such as *Elf*, actioners like *Iron Man* and poignant dramas such as *The Passion of the Christ*, for which he received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Score. Debney has collaborated with acclaimed directors as diverse as Robert Rodriguez, Garry Marshall, Mel Gibson, the Farrelly brothers, Jim Sheridan, Ivan Reitman, Sam Raimi, Adam Shankman, Renny Harlin and Kenny Ortega. In 2005 he became the youngest recipient of ASCAP’s Henry Mancini Career Achievement Award.

Debney is an agile jack-of-all-genres, composing for comedies (*Bruce Almighty*), sci-fi action (*Predators*), horror (*Dream House*) and romance (*Valentine’s Day*) with the same confidence and panache. His more recent work includes *The Jungle Book*, directed by Jon Favreau; *Ice Age: Collision Course*, directed by Mike Thurmeier; *The Greatest Showman*, starring Hugh Jackman and Zac Efron; *Beirut*, with Rosamund Pike and Jon Hamm; *The Beach Bum*, starring Matthew McConaughey; *Isn’t It Romantic*, with Rebel Wilson; and the forthcoming family adventure *Dora and the Lost City of Gold*. Additionally, Debney has scored numerous episodes of the Fox series “The Orville” for Seth MacFarlane, conducting each recording session with a nearly 100-piece orchestra.

The composer's other feature credits include *The Princess Diaries*, *Sin City*, *Liar Liar*, *Spy Kids*, *No Strings Attached*, *The Emperor's New Groove*, *I Know What You Did Last Summer* and *Hocus Pocus*.

Born in Glendale, California, Debney's professional life began after he studied composition at the California Institute of the Arts, when he went to work writing music and orchestrating for Disney Studios and various television series. He won his first Emmy in 1990 for the main theme for ABC's "The Young Riders," and his career was off to a galloping start. Since then he has won three more Emmys and received a total of six nominations (most recently in 2012 for his work on the TNT miniseries "Hatfields & McCoy's"). Debney's foray into video-game scoring with 2007's "Lair" resulted in a BAFTA nomination and a Best Video Game Score Award from the International Film Music Critics Association.

LEAH DANIELS-BUTLER (Casting Director) is a casting director and producer responsible for launching the careers of talented actors such as Gabourey Sidibe, star of the Academy Award-winning drama *Precious*. She currently serves as casting director for the smash hit "Empire," on Fox. Among her many accolades, Daniels-Butler was the recipient of the Hamilton Award for Outstanding Casting for her work on *Lee Daniels' The Butler* and won the Casting Society of America's award for Outstanding Achievement in Casting for a Television Drama for her work on "Empire." The Casting Society of America recently appointed her to its board of directors, where she serves as the only African-American member of the board.

Daniels-Butler began her career as a casting assistant in 1991, working for legendary casting directors Jaki Brown and Kimberly Hardin. Under their mentorship, she assisted in casting actor/recording star Tyrese Gibson in the Coca-Cola ad that launched his career, which now includes two blockbuster movie franchises (*Transformers* and *Fast & Furious*). Climbing the casting ladder, Daniels-Butler also assisted on films like *CB4*, starring Chris Rock; *The Inkwell*, with Larenz Tate; and the cult classic *Friday*, starring Ice Cube and Chris Tucker.

In 1994 Daniels-Butler landed a coveted casting position as the assistant to Leslie Litt, Senior VP of Casting at Warner Bros. Within two years she had earned a promotion to casting executive and began working on award-winning projects like "Friends" and "Suddenly Susan." Both shows earned Emmys for acting. During her tenure at Warner Bros., Daniels-Butler also cast "The Wayans Brothers" and "For Your Love," which received six NAACP Image Award nominations.

In 2001 Daniels-Butler left WBTV to start LDB Casting, the company she owns and operates today. As an independent casting director, she has worked across genres securing talent for films such as *2 Fast 2 Furious*, *Shadow Boxer*, *ATL* and *The Paperboy*. In 2013 Daniels-Butler cast the award-winning film *Lee Daniels' The Butler*, starring Oprah Winfrey, Forest Whitaker, Liev Schreiber, Robin Williams, Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Terrence Howard.

Daniels-Butler dedicates her free time to helping shape the futures of women in her community who are in need of second chances. She sits on the board of the A New Way to Life Reentry Project, an organization that provides housing and support to formerly incarcerated women in South Los Angeles.

The younger sister of Oscar-nominated director Lee Daniels, the casting director has been married to music executive and producer Henry Butler, Jr., for 22 years and is the proud mother of five wonderful children. Daniels-Butler is pursuing several new ventures including the launch of a new tequila brand, Amo Del Cielo, and the formation of television and film production company 10ninety5, a nod to the year she was married.

Daniels-Butler currently resides in the Southern California area.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Directed by Tom Shadyac
Written by Doug Atchison
Produced by Amy Baer, p.g.a.
Produced by Shivani Rawat, p.g.a.
Monica Levinson, p.g.a.

BRIAN BANKS

Executive Producer Derrick Tseng
Executive Producers Brian Banks
Justin Brooks
Neil Strum
Executive Producer Tirrell D. Whittley
Casting by Leah Daniels-Butler, CSA
Director of Photography Ricardo Diaz
Production Designer Teresa Mastropierro
Edited by Greg Hayden
Costume Designer Amanda Ford
Music by John Debney
Music Supervisors Julianne Jordan
Justine von Winterfeldt

Bleecker Street & ShivHans Pictures Presents

A ShivHans Pictures Production

A Gidden Media Production

A Film by Tom Shadyac

Unit Production Manager MONICA LEVINSON

First Assistant Director ALAN B. CURTISS

Second Assistant Director RYAN CRAIG

Produced In Association With
MEMPHIS MOUNTAINTOP MEDIA

Produced In Association With
NEW VISION / LIQUID SOUL

Co-Producers CHRISTOPHER CECCOTTI
CONNOR FLANAGAN

Cast

Brian Banks	ALDIS HODGE
Justin Brooks	GREG KINNEAR
Brian's Mom, Leomia	SHERRI SHEPHERD
Karina Cooper	MELANIE LIBURD
Alissa Bjerkhoel	TIFFANY DUPONT
Kennisha Rice	XOSHA ROQUEMORE
Marilyn	MYSTIE SMITH
Deputy District Attorney Mateo	JOSE MIGUEL VASQUEZ
Officer Mick Randolph	DORIAN MISSICK
Kennisha's Mother	MONIQUE GRANT
Pete Carroll	MATT BATTAGLIA
Michael Franti	AS HIMSELF
Judge Monk	KEVIN YAMADA
Barbara Ford	THURSDAY FARRAR
Corey Diego	ZEUS LUBY
Mike Paley	DAVID CLYDE CARR
Arthur Horton	CYRIL SMITH
Prisoner Manuel Rojas	GINO VENTO
Coach Jaso	DEAN DENTON
Shayla Jackson	MICHELLE E. MITCHELL
Eli	JEFF TROTTER
Malcolm	ORIN WALKER, JR.
Taye	TARI MCBRIDE-PALMORE
Ava Allen	BRITTANY BRYANT
Math Teacher	DAVID CAFFEY
School Security Guard	KAREN MARIE NORRIS
CIP Students	ELISABETH DONALDSON
	GABE BEUTEL-GUNN
	HARRISON STONE
	TORRI YATES-ORR
	CLAIRE D. KOLHEIM
Coach Lawson	MAURICE C. LAUCHNER
Female Manager	MARY FAULKNER
Prisoners	KEN GREER
	JOSEPH FOLKS
	TRENT BOUNDS
Police Officer	TAVIS TERRY
Los Padrinos Guard	MARIO LUNA
CMC Guard	DARIUS WALLACE
LBPD Police Officer	ANTHONY NGUYEN
Bailiff	FREEDOM BRIDGEWATER
Falcons Coach	AUSTIN HALEY
DA Mateo's Secretary	ALANNA HAMILL NEWTON

Trainer SEAN NORRIS
Reporters LUCIA HEROS
CANDICE L. HIGGINS
JENNIFER PIERCE MATHUS
ROSALYN R. ROSS
CHEN TENG

Stunt Coordinator IAN QUINN
Stunt Performer CHRISTOPHER PADILLA

Crew

Assistant Unit Production Manager KERRI HUNDLEY

Memphis Casting TINA KERR

Script Supervisor ZORINAH JUAN

Art Director STARLET JACOBS
Set Decorator DARIAN CORLEY
Graphic Designer KERRI MAHONEY

Art Department Coordinator CHELSEY STAGGS
Art Department Staff Assistants COLEMAN REYNA
MARY WEBER

Leadman JOHN GATHRIGHT
On Set Dresser DUSTIN BRANTLEY
Set Decoration Buyers DAYLE CORLEY
DONNA DIEFFENBACH

Set Dressers

TERRENCE BISHOP	GENE LEE
ELLEN CALDWELL	SCOTT NIVENS
THOMAS GILBERT	FREDDIE ROMERO
SHAWN HOUSTON	ALBERT SEILER
BOBBY WILLIAMSON	ANNETTE WRIGHT

Property Master WILL E. DRUMMOND
Assistant Property Master DANNY DONES
Property Assistants JAMES ARNETT
CHRISTOPHER CROWTHER
ALAN RESNECK

“A” Camera Operator DAVID MELLOW
“A” Cam 1st AC GRAY W. HEMPHILL III

“A” Cam 2 nd AC	TRACY FACELLI
“B” Camera/Steadicam Operators	PETER K. MUNSON BRANDON SUMNER
“B” Cam 1 st AC	WES TURNER
“B” Cam 2 nd AC	BREEZY LUCIA
“C” Camera Operator	BRENT SHREWSBURY
Digital Loader	ALPHA NEWBERRY
Camera Utility	JESSICA ADAIR
Video Assist	THOMAS KNIGHT
Still Photographers	JAKE GILES NETTER KATHERINE BOMBOY
Production Sound Mixer	JIM MORGAN
Boom Operator	MATT JOYER
Sound Utility	JENNILEE PARK
Gaffer	DREW FRAZIER
Best Boy Electric	GARLAND GALLASPY
Electrics	ANDY ALLMENDINGER JOSH JACOBS SHANE KENNEDY
Additional Electric	JESS SPRENKLE
Rigging Electric	ROGER EVANS IAN GRAUER RANDY UHLIG
Key Grip	JOSH MALLOY
Best Boy Grip	GREG CARPENTER
Dolly Grip	PATRICK DURKIN
Grips	CURTIS BURNETT TED GOBLE KYLE HUTSON BRANDON MALLOY
Additional Grip	PETER BUDD
Construction Coordinator	JOHN SUGGS
Foreman	MICHAEL ANDREWS
Propmakers	SHEA COLBURN ROSS MCLEAN KENNY SUGGS
Charge Scenic Artist	GARY WIMMER
Scenic Artist	BROOKE PRUDHOMME-GRABER
Paint Foreman	GEORGE FINNEY
Painters	ELISHA GOLD ROSS MCLEAN ANITA TRACY

Assistant Costume Designer	SARAH MAIORINO
Costume Supervisor	JOCELYN PIERCE
Key Set Costumer	TROY NICELY
Set Costumer	SHEENA WINIARSKI
Additional Set Costumer	SHELLEY McCABE
Costume Department Coordinator	LISA BONE
Background Costume Coordinator	MEGAN DUDLEY
Costume Staff Assistants	AMY HOFSTETTER KATIE SCHWEHR
Makeup Department Head	GLORIA BELZ
Key Makeup Artist	BAILEY DOMKE
Makeup Artist	APRIL CLARK
Hair Department Head	JACKIE WEISS
Key Hair Stylist	LAUREN GOODWIN
Additional Hair Stylist	FELICIA SMITH
Location Manager	MARTIN LANE
Key Assistant Location Manager	ROBERT SABA
Assistant Location Manager	NICKI NEWBURGER
Location Coordinator	JO BRACEY
Parking Coordinator	JIMMY CUTY
Set Location Assistants	EYAN WUCHINA IVON WUCHINA
Production Office Coordinator	JOHN D. HAY, JR.
Assistant Production Office Coordinator	KEVIN IVEY
Production Secretary	COLLIN HUTSELL
Office Staff Assistants	MAGGIE HORN VERMICO SMITH
Production Accountant	ALBERT KRAUSE
1 st Assistant Accountant	RUBY DEE PHILIPPA
2 nd Assistant Accountant	TONY CYPRES
Payroll Accountant	CONNIE MANGILIN
Accounting Clerk	MELISSA SIERRA
Financial Controller for ShivHans Pictures	CAREN ROSE
ShivHans Pictures VP of Operations	SIMON LANG
2nd 2nd Assistant Director	SCOTT RORIE
Additional 2nd Assistant Director	JACOB COBIAN
Set Staff Assistants	KEVIN BROOKS THOMAS HARGETT

	CONNOR KING	
	ABBY REED	
	MYRON SWIFT	
	KYLER WILSON	
Cast Assistant	JOHN GOLDSMITH	
Assistants to Mr. Shadyac	JOSHUA CANNON	
	CHRIS DEAN	
Set Assistant to Cast & Producers	SISSY DENKOVA	
Assistant to Ms. Rawat	ALEXANDRA LOMBARDO	
Assistant to ShivHans Pictures (Los Angeles)	SAM FURIE	
Production Legal	STUTZ LAW CORP.	
Production Lawyers	DAN STUTZ, ESQ.	
	RINA DHALIWAL, ESQ.	
	JAMES J. WALSH, ESQ.	
Music Clearance and Legal	CHRISTINE BERGREN	
Rights & Clearances	MARK MELOCCARO	
Casting Associates (Los Angeles)	KACEE DEVOE	
	KEVIN SCOTT	
Casting Assistant (Los Angeles)	GREGORY KULHANJIAN	
Casting Assistants (Memphis)	PHYLISS JOHNSON	
	THELMA DODSON	
Football Coordinator	MARK ELLIS	
Football Supervisor	JESSI SHELDON	
Assistant Football Coordinator	MIKE SHELDON	
Football Equipment Managers	MELANIE FERGUSON	
	JUSTIN SKINNER	
Athletic Trainer	KYLA MCDANIEL	
Transportation Captain	ANTON FLETCHER	
Transportation Co-Captain	COREY HAYES	
	Drivers	
NALLA BLACK	CHESTER HOLMES	GAY PREWITT
DREW CLARK	RANDY HOLMES	WALTER REECE
CHESTER GREEN	RAY HOLMES	STEVE REEVES
BEN HAMPTON		CORWIN STRONG
Transportation Production Assistant	JAZMINE HOUSTON	
Set Medics	MATT SNYDER	
	DANNY SPRY	

Caterer FUEL CAFÉ
 Head Chef ERIK PROVEAUX
 Assistant Chef GRESSZEL WILLIAMS
 Catering Assistants THAD CARLILE
 PHYLLIS CLINE
 CAMERON HINSON
 WILLIAM JOHNSON

Key Craft Service JASON SIMS
 Craft Service Assistants MATTHEW KIME
 TEDDY THOMAS

Unit Publicist SHERI D. NEELY
 EPK NATHAN BLACK
 ERIC SWARTZ
 Additional EPK MONKEY DEUX
 SPARKY STORIES

Student Interns		
JESSICA ADAIR	ERIC HENDERSON	LORENZO REESE
REGINALD AVERYHEART	BAILEY INMAN	CANISHA ROBERTSON
NATHAN BOSTON	ELISHA JEWELL	CLARICA ROBERTSON
DARYL CAMPBELL	VINTRELL JONES	DANTE ROBICHAUX
NATHAN CHIN	BARRETT KUTAS	JANELLE SAULSBERRY
KIM DAVIS	JULIEN MCGHEE	TYRA SHAW
ELIZABETH DEAN	DEDRICK MILLER	PATRICK TAYLOR
THELMA DODSON	KARIM MUHAMMAD	KATHRYN WATKINS
DENZEL FLENORL	L.J. PERRY	ALEX WOODRUFF
JEFFREY GARRISON	RAE'ANNA RASH	BUTCH WOODY
KYLE GOSSETT		MARCUS WRIGHT

Post Production

Post Production Supervisor DAVID DRESHER
 1st Assistant Editor LINDSAY TESSIER
 Post Production Staff Assistant NATHAN BOSTON
 Supervising Sound Editor ODIN BENITEZ

Dialogue/ADR Supervisor	GABRIEL J. SERRANO
Sound FX Editor	CHRISTOPHER BONIS
1 st Assistant Sound Editor	PERNELL L. SALINAS
Re-Recording Mixers	ANDY KOYAMA ODIN BENITEZ
Re-Recording Mix Technician	GABRIEL J. SERRANO
Foley Supervisor	WALTER SPENCER
Foley Artists	MIKE HORTON TIM MCKEOWN
Foley Facility	HI FI FOLEY
ADR Mixer	CHRIS NAVARRO, C.A.S. MICHAEL MILLER, C.A.S.
Audio Engineer	DONNIE LITTLE
Sound Editorial and Mixing Provided by	FORMOSA GROUP
ADR Voice Casting	THE LOOP SQUAD PATTY CONNOLLY MARK SUSSMAN
Loop Group	
KIM BAILEY	ERIN MYLES
PATTY CONNOLLY	ALVARO ORLANDO
EDDIE FRIERSON	DEVIKA PARIKH
DON FULLILOVE	JOHN PLEASANT
JUSTIN SHAW	MARK SUSSMAN
Score Coordinator	LOLA DEBNEY
Score Production Supervisors	STEPHANIE PEREIDA NATALIE STOWELL
Score Engineer	JOHN CHAPMAN
Music Editing by	JEFF CARSON JIM HARRISON CHUCK MARTIN LIQUID MUSIC
Debney Productions Technical Assistant	PEACE NISTADES
Music Production	ANGEL SONG INC.
Orchestration by	KEVIN KASKA
Score Recorded at	OCEAN WAY NASHVILLE

Music Coordinator	TOKO NAGATA
Digital Intermediate by	LOCAL HERO
Digital Intermediate Executive Producer	STEVE BANNERMAN
Digital Intermediate Colorist	LEANDRO MARINI
Digital Intermediate Producer	REBECCA ERBE
Digital Intermediate Workflow Supervisor	ANDREW DALE
Digital Intermediate Mastering Artist	BORJA RIBES BLANQUER
Visual Effects by	PACIFIC VISION PRODUCTIONS, INC.
Visual Effects Supervisor	DAVID D. JOHNSON
Digital Artists	
ANNE GRAHAM	STEVE KOCH
LANCE DAVIS	GREG PADDOCK
ALEX LEWIS	PETER STATHIS
Digital Makeup by	DIGITAL MAKEUP GROUP, LLC
Digital Makeup Designer	BILL CORSO
Digital Makeup Supervisor	LISA DEANER
Digital Makeup Producer	JACQUIE BARNBROOK
Digital Makeup Business Affairs	DAVID LAKE
Digital Makeup Senior Artist	CHRISTIAN BOUDMAN
Digital Makeup Artists	NIKOLA CENEV
	KRISTIJAN DANILOVSKI
	ALEXA HANN
	ERIC HANN
	TANJA TOPUZOVSKA
Additional Digital Makeup Artists	FX3X LTD.
Additional VFX Provided by	LOCAL HERO
Visual Effects Producer	LEANDRO MARINI
Visual Effects Supervisor	MICHAEL CURRIE
Visual Effects Artist	SHANE ROWE
Titles Artist	SHANE ROWE
Archive Researcher	DEB RICKETTS
Dailies Provided by	LOCAL HERO
Dailies Producer	STEVE BANNERMAN
Dailies Operator	ANDREW DALE
Avids Provided by	DIGITAL VORTECHS

Songs

“I’m Free”

Written by Brandon Stewart, Colton Fisher, Jason Rabinowitz, Cameron Marygold, Jordyn Shankle, Brayden Deskins, and Isaac Lucas
Performed by Taylor Hill ft. Jordyn Kane

Courtesy of The Math Club

“I’ll Be Ready”

Written by Brandon Stewart, Colton Fisher, Jason Rabinowitz, Luke Dimond, Jordyn Shankle, Brayden Deskins, and Isaac Lucas

Performed by Klarenze
Courtesy of The Math Club

“Please Rise To Your Feet”

Written by Brian Whitaker & Gorden Campbell
Performed by Winkfromthewood

Courtesy of Gravelpit Music and MMC

“Salvation”

Written by Brandon Stewart, Colton Fisher, Jason Rabinowitz, Luke Dimond, Jordyn Shankle, Brayden Deskins, and Isaac Lucas
Performed by Beatnet

Courtesy of The Math Club

“Take Me Alive”

Written by Michael Franti and Matt Morris
Performed by Michael Franti and Greg Kinnear

“Ain’t Gonna Stop”

Written by Zack Anthony Martin, Seth Murray, Wesley Traylor

Performed by Natural Child
Courtesy of Natural Child Records & Tapes
By Arrangement with Rollo Grady Music

“Romantic (NOTD Remix)”

Written by Chelcee Grimes, Michael Angelo, and Albert Stanaj
Performed by Stanaj

Courtesy of Lava Music / Republic Records under license from Universal Music Enterprises

“Pray for a Miracle”

Written by Justin Gray and Trevis Romell Harris
Performed by Romell

Courtesy of Anti Gravity Records

“We In This”

Written by Colton Fisher, Jason Rabinowitz, Mansa Wakili, and Jaron Lamot

Performed by Kil the Giant ft. Icy Black
Courtesy of The Math Club

“I Ain’t Messin Witchu”

Written by Craig Smith, Colton Fisher, Jason Rabinowitz, and Jaron Lamot

Performed by Black Oshin
Courtesy of The Math Club

“No One But You”

Written by Kelli Domonique Wakili, Theo Ross Rosenthal, Colton Fisher, Jason Rabinowitz, and Cameron Marygold

Performed by Kelli Wakili
Courtesy of The Math Club

“Still I Rise”

Written by Thutmose & Emmit Fenn
Performed by Thutmose

Courtesy of TH3RD BRAIN Records

“Bossa Lounge”

Written by John Horler and Chris Laurence
Courtesy of APM Music

“All We Do”

Written and Performed by Daniel Trakell
Courtesy of Rollo Grady Music

“I’m Ready”

Written by Stephen Dorsey, Stepan Taft, Che Pope, and Cahleb Branch
Courtesy of Extreme Music

“It’s Not Over”

Written by Glenda Proby, Mike Sabath, and Sam Fischer

Performed by Gizzle ft. Sam Fischer
Courtesy of Sony/ATV Music Publishing

“Set Me Free”

Written by James Edward Fauntleroy, Isaac Lucas, Ben Roberts, Colton Fisher, Jason Rabinowitz, Cameron Marygold, Brandon Stewart, Langston Theard, Jordyn Kane, and Brayden Deskins

By Arrangement With Justin Gray Entertainment
LLC

Performed by The Math Club ft. Redwood &
James Fauntleroy
Courtesy of The Math Club

California Innocence Project Stills Courtesy of	HEIDI CRUISE
Karina's Artwork Courtesy of	TERRY LYNN
Kimberly Long Stills Courtesy of	JOSEPH A. LAPIN
Grateful Dead (1967), Aoxomoxoa (1969)	
and American Beauty (1970) Album Covers Courtesy of	WARNER BROS. RECORDS
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There are thousands of innocent people in prison in California and around the world.

Resources are needed to free them.

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To donate to the California Innocence Project, go to:

CaliforniaInnocenceProject.org

Special Thanks

TREMAINE ATKINSON / CH DISTILLERY
ISHAMINAH BANKS
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ALISSA BJERKHOEL
CALIFORNIA INNOCENCE PROJECT
FIONAGH CUSH
LEOMIA DELANEY
ANDY JURGENSEN
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
DIGGER O'BRIEN
MICHAEL SEMANCHIK
TRACEY SNYDER
KEVIN TENT
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Filmed in Tennessee



Thanks to
THE STATE OF TENNESSEE
THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE
THE TENNESSEE ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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